GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:457
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
MINING OF ASBESTOS
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Indian Bureau of Mines regarding the adverse effects of mining asbestos on the health of workers;

(b) if so, the findings of the study;

(c) whether the study group has suggested to lift the ban imposed on asbestos mining;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to implement the same; and

(e) the time by which the ban on asbestos mining and grant of new mining lease is likely to be lifted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Study recommended imposition of safeguards on pollution level in work environment and other remedial measures subject to which the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted.

(d) & (e) Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. At present the ban on mining of asbestos has not been lifted.